

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 170703Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2152

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: LIBYAN PRESS ATTACKS ON SADAT AND U.S.

1. LIBYAN PRESS OF APRIL 16 IS FULL OF NEW ATTACKS ON PRESIDENT SADAT, APPARENTLY PROVOKED BY SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH KUWAITI PAPER AND HIS STATEMENT THAT QADHAFI IS "100 PERCENT SICK" , AS WELL AS BY EGYPTIAN PRESS ATTACKS (CAIRO 3627, 3563, 3716). LONG ARTICLE IN ONE PAPER REHEARSES QADHAFI'S GRIEVANCES AGAINST SADAT, AND SUGGESTS THAT HIS PROBLEM IS THAT HE HAS NOT FOUND "A PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF THE ARABS" AS NASSER DID. THIS EXPLAINS WHY HE IS LASHING OUT AT NASSER'S SUCCESSOR, QADHAFI. SADAT KNOWS THAT ONLY WAY OUT OF HIS "POLITICAL VACILLATION" IS WAR, BUT HE IS DOING EVERYTHING HE CAN TO AVOID FACING THIS, AND THIS INCLUDES ATTACKING THOSE WHO REFUSE TO SELL OUT THE CAUSE. ARTICLE REVEALS TO WORLD THAT IT WAS LIBYAN BOATS WHICH CROSSED CANAL, AND LIBYAN ARTILLERY WHICH

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DESTROYED BAR LEV LINE IN OCTOBER WAR. IT CONCLUDES

BY ASKING SADAT TO ANSWER JUST ONE QUESTION: "WHERE DID OUR BANK DEPOSITS GO?"

2. A SCND ITEM, CITING INFORMED ARAB SOURCES, STATES THAT REASONS FOR EGYPTIAN ATTACKS ON QADHAFI ARE THAT "THE U.S. HAS ENTRUSTED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PRESENT REGIME IN EGYPT WITH THE JOB OF OPEN PLOTTING AGAINST LIBYA, BECAUSE OF THE ROLES THE REVOLUTION IS CARRYING OUT TO STRENGTHEN THE DE-TERMINATION OF ARAB NATION IN FACE OF ZIONIST, REACTIONARY, AND IMPERIALIST PLOTS. . . AMERICA HAS AGREED WITH EGYPTIAN REGIME THAT ARAB REVOLU-TION IN LIBYA IS THE GREAT OBSTACLE STANDING IN WAY OF MARCH OF DEFEATIST SOLUTIONS AND REACTIONARY APOSTASY IN ARAB HOMELAND. . . . ARAB CIRCLES IN GENERAL, AND MASSES OF ARAB NATION, ARE NOT SURPRISED OR ASTONISHED AT CAMPAIGN OF INSULT WHICH ANWAR SADAT IS LEADING HIMSELF, AND WITH HIS OWN TONGUE, AGAINST LEADER OF FIRST OF SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION (QADHAFI), USING DISGRACEFUL AND COMPLETELY IDIOTIC EXPRESSIONS, SINCE THESE ARE ORDERS WHICH HE IS CARRYING OUT".

4. COMMENT: QADHAFI FIRST HINTED IN INTERVIEW LAST YEAR THAT SADAT WAS IN LEAGUE WITH U.S. TO DESTROY HIM, AND HE MAY HALF BELIEVE THIS PARANOID NOTION. WE CANNOT JUDGE WHAT EFFECT HIS POISON MAY BE HAVING IN EGYPT, BUT IN LIBYA, WHERE EGYPTIANS MAKE UP PERHAPS ONE QUARTER OF WORK FORCE, AND ARE WIDELY AND IRRATIONALLY DISLIKED, THIS SORT OF VITUPERATION COULD LEAD ANTI-EGYPTIAN RABBLE TO ATTACK EGYPTIAN WORKERS. QADHAFI WOULD NOT WANT THIS TO HAPPEN, AS HIS QUARREL IS WITH SADAT, NOT EGYPTIANS IN GENERAL, BUT MANY ORDINARY LIBYANS DO NOT MAKE THIS DISTINCTION.
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